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Message Text

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53
ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 SAM-01 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /128 W
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R 171245Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3272

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EG JO
SUBJ: ARAFAT IN CAIRO: MEETS WITH SADAT

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. YASIR ARAFAT WAS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT SADAY MAY 15 AT MIT ABUL KOM, PRESIDENT'S HOME VILLAGE IN DELTA. FH FAHMY WAS PRESENT. ALL CAIRO PAPERS MAY 17 FEATURE PHOTO OF TWO LEADERS. ACCORDING TO PRESS, PRESIDENT WAS "SLIGHTLY INDISPOSED", ALI AMIN WRITES IN AHRAM THAT HE HAS TONSILITIS.

2. PRESS REPORTS DISCUSSION CONCERNED AREA DEVELOPMENTS IN LIGHT OF RECENT PALESTINIAN MEETINGS IN PREPARATION FOR JUNE 1 PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL SESSION. PAPERS ALSO REPORT FH FAHMY MET EARLIER FOR HOUR WITH ARAFAT AND PLO CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER SAID KAMAL (SIC) TOR REVIEW RESULTS OF CONTACTS MADE BY RESISTANCE LEADERS WITH ARAB CAPITALS AND WITH FM GROMYKO DURING HIS VISIT TO DAMASCUS.

3. AHRAM MAY 17 HAS INTERVIEW WITH ARAFAT IN WHICH HE SAID HIS VISIT IS FOR PURPOSE OF URGENT TALKS WITHSADAT IN CONTEXT OF CONTINUOUS CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN CAIRO, DAMASCUS, AND
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RESISTANCE LEADERSHIP. ASKED ABOUT PLO PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA,

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ARAFAT GAVE AMBIGUOUS ANSWER: "RESISTANCE HOLDS TO ITS STAND AND BELIEVES INTERESTS OF CAUSE ARE SERVED BEST IF WE ARE LAST TO SPEAK." POLITICAL ACTION, HE ADDED, "WILL NEVER BE SUBSTITUTE FOR OUR PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE.

4. ARAFAT ALSO AFFIRMED THAT PNC WOULD MEET AS SCHEDULED JUNE 1 IN CAIRO. HE RECCALLED MEETINS HAD BEGUN RECENTLY OF "ALL RESISTANCE GROUPS", AND SAID "WE SHALL ARRIVE AT A 'PALESTININA DECISION'". SUCH MEETINS "WILL HELP PALESTINIAN COMMAND GO TO PNC FULLY EQUIPPED WITH UNIFIED DIRECTIVES. END UNCLASSIFIED.

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: COMMENT: ACCORDING TO EGYPTIAN JOURNALIST WITH EXCELLENT SOURCES AT TOP LEVEL MFA, SADAT INFORMED ARAFAT DURING THEIR MEETING IN PRESENCE FM FAHMY THAT ARAFAT, IN CAPACITY AS PLO HEAD, WOULD RECEIVE "VERY SOON" AN INVITATION TO ATTEND GENEVA TALKS. IN THE MEANTIME, SADAT REPORTEDLY STRESSED, ARAFAT SHOULD TAKE NO CONCRETE POLITICAL ACTION; IN PARTICULAR, HE SHOULD NOT PUSH FOR FORMATION OF GOVERNMENT IN EXILE OR INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE. JOURNALIST STATED THAT GOE VIEW OF ARAFAT'S PERSONAL POSITION IS THT HE MAINTAINS SOLID CONTROL OVER FATAH. HE ADDED THAT THIS VISIT TO CONSULT WITH SADAT AND FAHMY WAS NOT A RESPONSE TO MAALOT ATTACK, BUT RATHER HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR SOME TIME.
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